

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Michael Bauer et al.

Serial No.: 10/562,252

Filed: July 5, 2006

Docket No.: 1431.140.101/FIN480PCT/US

Title: ELECTRONIC MODULE AND METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION THEREOF

REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed July 7, 2008. With this Response, claim 36 has been canceled and claims 11 and 37 have been amended. Claims 11-27 and 37-39 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Baker et al. (US 5,869,896). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 36, which has been canceled. Claim 37 has been amended to adjust its dependency following the deletion of claim 36.

Thus, claim 11 as amended effectively represents claim 36 in independent form, thus overcoming the rejection under 35 USC 102. Claim 36 was rejected under section 103. This rejection is addressed below.

Claim 39 depends from claim 11. As such, the rejection of claim 39 under section 102 is also overcome.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Section 4 of the Office Action states that claims 12-16, 25-27 and 36-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker et al. (US 5,869,896) in view of Durousseau (US 6,708,051 B1). However, the specific rejections of claims 16, 36 and 38 cite Rudin (US 4,016,483) in combination with Baker.

As noted above, claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 36. Thus, independent claims 11 and 16 each recite the wiring block including plastic. More particularly, claim 11 states that the wiring block is made of plastic and claim 16 states that the wiring block includes a plastic volume through which the lines extend.

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In the rejection of claims 16 and 36, the Office Action admits that Baker fails to disclose carbonized plastic. Since claims 11 (including the limitation of original claim 36) and 16 each recite the wiring block including plastic, Applicants interpret the Office Action to mean that Baker fails to disclose a wiring block including plastic. Regarding the disclosure of plastic, the Office Action cites Rudin at col. 1 lines 21-36, stating that Rudin discloses lines with carbonized plastic. However, the only mention of plastic in the cited portion of Rudin is as follows: “Nonwire-wound potentiometers are typically fabricated from materials such as ... conductive plastic.”

Thus, Baker in combination with Rudin fails to disclose or suggest a plastic wiring block. As such, claims 11 and 16 are proper for allowance. Claims 12-15 and 37-39 depend on claim 11, and claims 17-27 depend on claim 16 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 11 and 16.

Claims 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Baker et al. (US 5,869,896) in view of Andoh et al. (US 5,095,357). These claims all depend on claim 16, which is allowable as set forth above. Claims 18-24 are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in form for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

No fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(h)(i). However, if such fees are required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0471.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Mark L. Gleason at Telephone No. (612) 767-2503, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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